WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system in which various feature values possessed by a multimedia object are used to search for a similar object, comprising:

5   a feature value calculation section configured to calculate one or more types of feature values from the multimedia object which is registered;

a category setting section configured to set a category, which is based on the feature value

10   calculated by the feature value calculation section, on a database storing the multimedia object; and

a registration section configured to associate with the multimedia object which is registered, the feature value calculated by the feature value

15   calculation section and the category set by the category setting section and to register the multimedia object, the feature value, and the category into the database.

2. The system according to claim 1, wherein the

20   category setting section automatically selects the category based on the feature value calculated by the feature value calculation section, and

the registration section automatically registers the multimedia object which is the registration object

25   and the feature value of the multimedia object into the database together with the category automatically selected by the category setting section.

3. The system according to claim 1, wherein the category setting section selects the category based on the feature value calculated by the feature value calculation section to provide an initial value of a registration end category candidate which is to be presented to a registerer.

4. The system according to claim 1, wherein the category setting section selects a plurality of categories based on the feature value calculated by the feature value calculation section, and displays the plurality of selected categories in order of high accuracy.

5. The system according to claim 4, wherein the category setting section displays the plurality of categories selected based on the feature value as a list indicating the categories having the accuracy which is not less than a set threshold value, and a list indicating the categories having the accuracy which is less than the threshold value.

6. The system according to claim 1, wherein the category setting section selects the category which is the registration end based on the feature value calculated by the feature value calculation section, and displays the selected category to which a symbol representing the accuracy is attached.

7. The system according to claim 1, wherein the category setting section includes:

a discriminant analysis section configured to discriminate/analyze the feature value of the registered multimedia object with respect to the registration-end category; and

5   a storage section configured to store a discriminant analysis result of the discriminant analysis section, and

uses the discriminant analysis result stored in the storage section to select the category which is the

10   registration end.

8. The system according to claim 7, wherein the discriminant analysis section discriminates/analyzes the feature value with respect to the registered objects including the multimedia object constituting

15   the registration object, after the category setting section determines the registration end of the multimedia object.

9. The system according to claim 1, further comprising:

20   an object designation section configured to designate an arbitrary multimedia object as the multimedia object which is the registration object; and

an attribute designation section configured to carry out at least one of designation and input of

25   attribute information of the multimedia object designated by the object designation section.

10. The system according to claim 1, wherein the

category setting section includes an attribute
designation section configured to carry out at least
one of designation and input of attribute information
of the multimedia object which is the registration
object.

11. A method in which various feature values
possessed by a multimedia object are used to search for
a similar object, comprising:

calculating one or more types of feature values
from the multimedia object which is registered;

setting a category, which is based on the
calculated feature value, on a database storing the
multimedia object; and

associating with the multimedia object which is
registered, the calculated feature value and the set
category to register the multimedia object, the feature
value, and the category into the database.

12. A system in which various feature values
possessed by a multimedia object are used to search for
a similar object, comprising:

feature value calculation means for calculating
one or more types of feature values from the multimedia
object which is registered;

category setting means for setting a category,
which is based on the feature value calculated by the
feature value calculation means, on a database storing
the multimedia object; and

registration means for associating with the multimedia object which is registered, the feature value calculated by the feature value calculation means and the category set by the category setting means to register the multimedia object, the feature value, and the category into the database.